

Souvenir Program

The Franco-Americans

Honor Holyoke's Historic Hundredth



Published by

The Franco-American  
Centennial Committee

JUNE, 1973

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L'Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, la plus grande société fraternelle franco-américaine des Etats-Unis, salue la ville de Holyoke à l'occasion de son centenaire et félicite les Francos de Holyoke qui n'ont pas honte de proclamer fièrement leurs origines ethniques.



Haut-relief en bronze exposé dans les salons de l'Union à la mémoire du président-fondateur Edouard Cadieux de Holyoke.

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## Hommages à la ville de Holyoke



ROGER L. BERNASHE

As the sole Franco-American Senator of Massachusetts, I am proud to be a member of such a distinguished ethnic group which has contributed so much to American History.

Join with me to praise our proud heritage and to advance the French spirit of brotherhood during the Franco-American Festival week, honoring the Holyoke Centennial Celebration.

Sincerely,  
ROGER L. BERNASHE  
State Senator

Bon succès!

**Congratulations and Best Wishes  
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**PAROISSE DE NOTRE DAME**

**DU PERPETUEL SECOURS**

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Saluts et félicitations!  
au succès du centenaire!

## **LES GRAND-MAMANS**

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Meilleurs voeux!

## **LES DAME DE SAINT ANNE DU PRECIEUX SANG**

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Appreciation

The members of the Franco-American Holyoke Centennial Committee take this opportunity to thank their many friends who so willingly contributed to make this Centennial

Souvenir program a success.

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## PREFACE

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the American government pursued an active policy of assimilation of ethnic groups into the "melting pot" of American society. "One country, one language, one flag", "America first" and many other such slogans, combined with unfavorable laws, were used to discourage minorities from holding to their individual identity. This policy sprang in large part from a misunderstanding of the role of ethnic consciousness in the formation of American civic spirit. Rather than seeing ethnic groups as the backbone and stability of our American way of life, they were viewed as a threat and a source of indifference and disinterest.

Today, however, our government, realizing the important and necessary contribution of minority groups to the vitality of our country, encourages the preservation and study of ethnic culture in the United States. Through bilingual school districts, ethnic studies programs and anti-discrimination laws, the government affirms that consciousness of one's identity and pride of heritage are necessary elements of good citizenship.

The French minority in this country, long conscious of the role played by their ancestors in the discovery, exploration and colonization of large portions of this land and aware also of the important role played by the French in the winning of the Revolutionary War have always considered their history and their French culture to be an important and valuable part of American tradition. They vigorously defended their right to preserve their faith and their language brought to the New World from France by their ancestors. In the United States, inspired by the example set by the French in the province of Quebec, and bolstered by the proximity of the second Mother-country, Canada, they have fought the policy of assimilation. To this end, they established, wherever they settled in any number, French speaking parishes and schools, published French language newspapers, founded French Mutual Aid societies and French social clubs and clung tenaciously to their traditions even as they pushed for naturalization and integration into American economic, social and political structures.

## EARLY HISTORY

It is fitting this Centennial year that the Franco-Americans of Holyoke take a look at their past and their contributions to the evolution of Holyoke, both as a center of industry and also as a community of people.

The history of Holyoke is well known but the story of the French Canadians' migration to Holyoke and their struggle for integration into the religious, social, economic and political life of the city is a colorful one and deserves to be retold.

In the early 1830's, the Connecticut Valley in Western Massachusetts had a few settlements, fewer towns and very few cities. It was a pleasant countryside with mountains on the horizon and fertile plains through which flowed a river, the Connecticut River, which, a few miles north of Springfield, made a large curve and rushed toward rocky rapids. Industrialists, attracted by this hydraulic force installed a few factories on its banks. Local farmers' daughters worked there.

In 1850, when the area known as Ireland parish was incorporated as the town of Holyoke, there were 700 people living and working here, very few of which were French. The first to come were the Gallaudet brothers and Jean-Baptiste Boulet. He arrived in 1854, served Mass at St. Jerome's church from its founding in 1856 and left in 1859 to study for the priesthood. He became one of the illustrious missionary priests who served in Oregon. A few families came too — the Stebbins, the Taces, the Proulx. Many of them worked in the Lyman spinning mill.

In 1858, the Hadley Falls Co., the original corporation of Boston capitalists who had foreseen the industrial worth of Holyoke's location and who as part of a \$50,000 enterprise had established the first concern, a 2,700 spindle cotton factory, went into

receivership. Absentee ownership and inefficient local management were two factors responsible for this. Its real estate and water power rights were sold at auction and bought by a local gentleman, Mr. Alfred Smith, for \$325,000 and immediately resold by him to the newly organized Holyoke Water Power Co. for \$350,000. Soon the new company had the dam and canal system mapped out and 60% of it dug. A large machine shop, 3 cotton mills, 2 paper mills and several small factories were operating and several rows of brick tenements and a few separate frame houses had been built. Holyoke, the planned city, was on its way down its industrial path.

In the winter of 1858-59, a labor shortage in the town brought about the first importation of French Canadian workers. Mr. Davis, agent for the Lyman Mills, contacted one of the Canadians in the area, "a certain Prue", and made arrangements for him "to set forth with a large wagon built specifically for the purpose and with such persuasiveness as he could command to bring back from the province of Quebec all the workers he could garner". This "certain Prue" was Nicholas Proulx whose French name was later anglicised to Prew to conform with the pronunciation and adopted and used by the family. The first work force recruited in this manner by this man consisted of 46 girls, whose greater manual dexterity particularly fitted them for cotton spindle mill work, and 6 men and boys. "Prue" brought this group to Holyoke in a caravan of two wagons, one covered and similar to a prairie schooner, the other an open wagon, both drawn by horses. The girls were packed in the omnibus and the men and boys walked alongside or hitched a ride on the smaller baggage wagon which followed. They were supplied from home with food for the trip and bivouacked each evening in open fields, at abandoned farms or in the vacant barns along the road. Nicholas Proulx was paid \$4.00 and transportation charges for each person he was able to persuade to accompany him. He made many similar trips to Quebec and back over the period of the next five years, refining the arrangements and organizing the trip so that later groups were housed in schoolhouses at convenient stops along the route, and each time bringing back a new group of Canadian workers for the Lyman Mills and later for the Hampden Mills as well. He is credited with a record of 500 individuals imported to Holyoke during these five years. These first workers earned the munificent sum of \$202.00 per worker per year. In the wake of these individuals came whole families of French Canadians and in 1873, when Holyoke became a city, there were 2,500 French Canadians living here. Immigration continued at such a pace that the French speaking parish census of 1889 counted 2,410 families and 13,202 souls with 1,171 children enrolled in its school. Of the over 13,000 French parishioners 323 were property owners and 452 registered voters. To reach this status they had overcome the negative image of French Canadian immigrants projected by the 1880 Massachusetts Labor Board of Statistics, a copy of which follows:—

"With some exceptions, the Canadian-French are the Chinese of the Eastern States. They care nothing for our institutions, civil, political or educational. They do not care to make a home among us, to dwell with us as citizens and so become a part of us; but their purpose is merely to sojourn a few years as aliens, touching us only at a single point, that of work, and when they have gathered out of us what will satisfy their ends to get them away whence they came and bestow it there. They are a horde of industrial invaders, not a stream of stable settlers. Voting, with all that it implies, they care nothing about. Rarely does one of them become naturalized. They will not send their children to school if they can help it, but endeavor to crowd into the mills at the earliest possible age. To do this they deceive about the age of their children with brazen effrontery. They deceive also about their schooling declaring they have been to school the legal length of time, when they know they have not, and do not intend that they shall. And when at length they are cornered by the school officers, and there is no escape, often they scramble together what few things they have, and move to some other place where they are unknown, and where they hope by a repetition of the same deceptions to escape the school entirely and keep the children at work right on in the mills. And when, as is indeed sometimes the case, any of them are so situated that they cannot escape at all, then the stolid indifference of the children wears out the teacher with what seems to be an idle task. These people have one good trait. They



are indefatigable workers and docile. All they ask is to be set to work, and they care little who rules them or how they are ruled. To earn all they can and by no matter how many hours of toil, to live in the most beggarly way so that out of their earnings they may spend as little for living as possible, and to carry out of our country what they save: this is the aim of the Canadian French in our factory districts. Incidentally, they must have some amusements; and so as far as the males are concerned, drinking, smoking, and lounging constitute the sum of these."

The French Canadians in Massachusetts were incensed at this Massachusetts Labor Bureau report which stigmatised them as the "Chinese of the East". They organized a protest, undertook a group self-evaluation, and solicited testimony from the industrialists who employed them attesting to their good work habits, moral life, low crime and pauper record. Each French Canadian center conducted its own census which was forwarded to the Bureau of Statistics of Labor with the protest. The following is Holyoke's 1880 census, used to refute the allegations made in the report.

#### HOLYOKE 1880

Population		Property Owners	School Children		Canadian Schools
Total	Can.	Canadian	Total	Can.	
21,851	6,500	75	4,640	1,000	1
Naturalized Canadians		Canadian Office Holder	Can. Merchant & Professional		Canadian Tradesmen
150		5	66		91

By 1900 the French constituted 1/3 of the population of Holyoke and in 1923 when Holyoke celebrated its Semi-Centennial the French were so fully integrated into Holyoke life that they figured prominently on the rolls of the Committees of Arrangements. Bourassa's Orchestra of Holyoke was one of the two orchestras who played for the Old Fashioned Costume Ball, the first Semi-Centennial event held at City Hall Auditorium on Friday, August 31 and L. D. Pellissier was Floor Director for the affair. Pierre Bonvouloir was listed as Treasurer in the list of General Officers. Miss Anna M. Laporte wrote the Commemorative Ode for the occasion. Miss Agnes Cadieux was Secretary of the Pageant Committee and Miss Estelle LaFrance represented France in the pageant. Edward Beauchamp, Jules Pare, H. Pare Ducharme, Ernest Cousineau, Aldea Chretien (now Mrs. Philippe LaRochelle), Pauline Goddard, Dr. Jean-Louis Brindamour, Armand Morache and three other unidentified French citizens took part in the French portion of the pageant presented at Craft's Hill, Northampton and Dwight Streets on Saturday afternoon, September 1st at 3 p.m. during Scene 2 entitled "The Coming of the People: French, Early French Settlers in Holyoke, French Pavane.

Other French names included on the Semi-Centennial Committees were Henry P. Ducharme - Finance Committee, Leopold Sabourin - Executive Committee, Joseph Lussier, Victor Messier, Charles A. Vautrain - Publicity Committee, J. A. Coderre - History Committee, Adelard A. Fortin, Rev. Pierre H. Gauthier, Rev. J. H. Gelineau, J. H. Lussier - Pageant Committee, Louis A. LaFrance - General Recreation Committee, Adjutor Goddu - Sports Committee, Lionel Boucher - Printing Committee, Henry Remillard, and Arthur A. Marcil, Committee on Decorations, Miss Irene Ducharme - Block Dance Committee, Mrs. George Messier, Mrs. George E. Pellissier, Wallace Choquette, Paul LaFrance, Arthur A. Marcil - General Committee for Costume Ball, C. E. Ducharme - Ticket Committee on Costume Ball and Leon A. Peltier, R. J. Laporte and Victor Menard - Transportation Committee.

There were three distinct classes of French Canadian immigrants to New England: the "habitants", true lovers of Canadian soil, who left for America to make enough money to pay debts and buy off mortgages which were ruining them with the decided

intention of returning to Canada as soon as possible; the "vagabonds" or "nomads" always on the move from Canada to the United States, from town to city, from the U. S. to Canada; and the permanent "emigrants", the largest class and the most stable. This last is the group that built churches, founded convents and schools, formed societies and organized numerous well-disciplined centers. It is evident that the French Canadian pioneers who came to Holyoke belonged to this last group. They founded three French speaking parishes, formed societies, started businesses, established a bank and a credit union, built up a large part of Holyoke and played a role in its government.

In 1973, Holyoke's Centennial Year, descendants of these French Canadian immigrants constitute the second largest ethnic group in the city.

Fidelity to traditions and loyalty to ancestors motivated early immigrants and their immediate families and the struggle for self-identity, self-respect and recognition was a mighty one. It has led to mutual respect and social unity in diversity.

### LIST OF FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN HOLYOKE

- 1874: "Le Courrier", first to appear, lasted only four months.
- 1881: "Le Progrès", renamed copy of "La Patrie" published in Cohoes, N. Y.
- 1884: "Le Défenseur", a weekly, it was published from Sept. 1884 to 1894.
- 1892: Le "Canado-Américain", a Holyoke edition of the "National" of Lowell, Mass., issued during the presidential campaign.
- 1895: "La Presse", published semi-weekly from 1895 to 1903.
- 1901: "La Vérité", edited and published for only a few months.
- 1904: "Le Journal", lasted only a few weeks.
- 1904: "La Justice", the most important and successful French language newspaper published and edited in Holyoke, incorporated in 1902 and published on a regular basis from 1904 to 1964.
- 1908: "La Vedette", four issues were printed.

The La Justice printing business was established in 1900 and the newspaper was incorporated in 1902. Dr. Henri Chaput, Mr. Felix J. Cloutier and former Mayor John J. White took over the newspaper operation in November 1904, at the time of the municipal elections. Dr. Chaput had come to the city from Canada in 1898 and had established a successful medical practice. (His interest in newspaper work was later reflected by his son Girard, a Holyoke native, who for many years was associated with the Philadelphia Inquirer.) In 1908 these three men sold their controlling interests in the newspaper to Atty. Oscar Lamontagne and one year later Mr. Joseph Lussier became the new owner, editor and publisher. A great force in the French paper's history, he guided its fortunes for more than 30 years. It grew and prospered, reaching a peak circulation of 4,500 issues. A second major figure in La Justice's existence was Romeo D. Raymond who came to Holyoke in 1932 from the defunct French publication L'Opinion Publique of Worcester, Mass., and who worked under Lussier as a linotype operator. In June 1940, Mr. Lussier sold the newspaper to Jacques Ducharme, local novelist and author of The Delusson Family and In the Shadow of the Trees, who published it for a short time.

In October 1941, Romeo D. Raymond became the second major head of the company. He acquired ownership of the publishing company and operated it with his two sons, Gerard C. and Arthur Z. He, Romeo D. Raymond, was editor-publisher of the newspaper until his death in December of 1963.

Gerard C. Raymond became third major owner of the publishing company in October, 1956, retaining his father as editor-publisher of the newspaper. With the death of Romeo D. Raymond, the paper was laid to rest in 1963.

LaJustice Publishing Co., Inc., continues the printing business with Gerard C. Raymond as President and Treasurer. It offers printing services in both French and English.



PRECIOUS BLOOD  
(PRECIEUX SANG)

1869

Pastors: Reverend Adrien B. Dufresne, 1869-1887.  
Reverend Herman Landry, 1887-1890.  
Reverend Charles Crevier, 1890-1927.  
Reverend Gédéon Fontaine, 1927-1937.  
Reverend William J. Morin, 1937-1952.  
Monsignor Eugène E. Guérin, 1953-1964.  
Reverend Archibald R. Lajoie, March 1964.

Traditionally, the French Canadian is family-minded and parish-minded. However, the Canadian immigrant, so devoted to Catholicism while in Quebec cared little for the Catholic Church in his new locality. When the local clergy remonstrated with him for this he protested that he couldn't afford the pew rates and that he didn't understand the language.

In October 1867, Fathers Garin and Dubeaut, from Montreal, invited by Bishop Williams, of Boston, preached a retreat to the Canadians in Springfield. A delegation from Holyoke went to it. These priests then visited Father Harkins, the pastor of St. Jerome's Church, who offered them the use of the church for an eight-day retreat. The success of this "retraite" proved that faith was not dead, "chez les canadiens" and the "mission" united the immigrants. They resolved to establish their own parish. Plans began immediately.

French born Msgr. Louis de Goesbriand, named first bishop of Vermont in 1853, had long pleaded the cause of the immigrant urging Canada to send French speaking missionary priests to the New England area. One of these, Rev. Adrian Dufresne arrived in Holyoke in the winter of 1868 and immediately set to work ministering to the early French-speaking settlers. His presence reinforced their desire and resolve to have their own parish and a few prominent men were appointed to go to Bishop Williams to interest him in the enterprise. The Bishop of Boston acquiesced to their desire and at the beginning of 1869, he established the first French speaking parish of Holyoke and named as first pastor, this same Father Adrien B. Dufresne.

The parish, with the Holyoke Water Power Company's permission, set about erecting a modest wooden chapel on a sandy, barren lot between Park and East Streets facing Cabot. Awaiting its completion, Father Dufresne said Mass in Craft's Hall at 145 High Street. Rent was high—ten dollars a week—and as an economy measure, in October 1869, the site was moved to St.-Jean-Baptiste Hall located opposite Craft's block. On Christmas day, 1869, the parishioners of Precious Blood attended Mass for the first time in their own church.

This new temple was made entirely of wood and paneled with padded tar paper. It was a two-story building, one hundred feet long by sixty feet wide. On the first floor, the church had a center and side aisles. Between these aisles there were benches, each seating eight persons. On the second floor, there was a circular gallery, fifteen feet wide, on three sides of the church. A stairway that led to the vestibule was the only means of exit from this gallery. Two doors led outdoors from the vestibule, but there was only one door from the nave to the vestibule. It was a temporary structure intended to be used only for a while, until money for a beautiful edifice could be collected.

Father Dufresne and the parish labored valiantly at all the fund-raising projects —"bazars, rafes, soirées, goûters, piqueniques". The foundations of the new church were laid when there occurred a terrible fire which was to destroy the wooden church and bereave the entire parish. The year was 1875.



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Seven or eight hundred parishioners were gathered for Vespers on the feast of Corpus Christi. Because of the heat on this 27th day of May, all the windows in the church had been opened. Suddenly, the flame of a vigil light, placed under the niche of the Blessed Mother licked the muslin which adorned the statue and set a fire which spread to the tapestry. Within seconds the church became an inferno. In the nave, the faithful hastened in relatively good order toward the front door; those in the gallery, however, more numerous and more cramped, were gripped with fear and hurled themselves toward the only staircase. The thrust was too great and the staircase collapsed bringing down with it men, women and children piled one on top of the other. Panic spread to those in the nave. They began to rush and the crowd was in such a hurry that they were not able to open the interior doors. In less than an hour the fire had run its course leaving only charred bodies and ruins.

Ironically, those in the gallery could have saved themselves by dropping out of the open windows down onto the new construction which immediately adjoined the wooden chapel.

A morgue was hastily set up in a nearby grocery store and it was later transferred to the school on Park Street (the recent locale of the Sisters' convent) and relatives began the painful task of identifying loved-ones. Fifty of the fifty-one bodies there were recognized.

The number of victims resulting from the fire is variously reported as seventy-one, seventy-four and seventy-seven. Whatever the number, the tragic event was a disaster which united the entire city in a common expression of sympathy.

The Transcript printed its first and only French edition, an account of the fire, on the following day. This account was written for them by a professor of French from The French College in Springfield and a copy of it is preserved in an old scrapbook at the Holyoke Public Library.

Mayor Pearsons and the city officials attended the funeral services held for the victims, and the city voted to pay for the caskets for those whose remains were to be transported to Canada for burial.

All of Holyoke's physicians had rushed to the fire immediately to give aid to the burn-victims and they continued to minister to them.

The dead whose bodies were not returned were buried at Precious Blood cemetery, in a common grave.

The struggle to rebuild began and the church was completed and blessed on June 3, 1878.

Father Dufresne started classes for the children of the parish in the basement of the church and later he brought the Grey Sisters to Holyoke to teach the girls in one of the schools which he erected on either side of the convent. He planned to ask an order of Brothers to teach the boys in the second school.

Great controversy surrounded the establishment of the girl's school. Some of the citizens had not looked kindly upon the first Catholic school conducted at St. Jerome claiming that children should not be separated according to their beliefs. Father Dufresne had to defend not only a Catholic school but a French language school as well. The people objected, saying that the Canadians would never be Americanized. They cited the law ordering teaching in English and tried to invoke it to close the Precious Blood school. Father Dufresne was able to save the school when he informed the interested parties that both French and English were taught and when he persuaded the Holyoke industrialists that there might be an exodus of Canadians if the opposition movement carried. At a time when the school year lasted only twenty weeks, to allow the children more time to work, he was happily inspired to accept

only the children who would follow the courses for thirty-eight weeks. This won favor with another segment of the population. Thanks to these tactics the first Franco-American school opened in 1880 and was accepted in Holyoke as part of the city's school system.

At the time of Father Dufresne's death in 1887, Precious Blood parish consisted of a large church, a small rectory, a convent and two schools. According to his wishes, Fr. Dufresne is buried on the parish grounds close to the church he loved and served so well.

Within a month of Father Dufresne's death in 1887, Reverend Herman Landry was named by Bishop Patrick O'Reilly to succeed him. Although his pastorate was a short one, he left his mark in the parish's history.

His first thought was for the school system. The Grey Nuns, according to their constitution, taught only girls. Father Landry replaced them with the Saint Anne order of Lachine, Quebec, who taught both girls and boys. (This order continued to serve the educational needs of the parish until 1971 when the school was closed because of a lack of personnel in the community and a dwindling number of students at the Precious Blood High School due perhaps in part to the industrialization of the area where the school was situated).

Since the Canadian population of Holyoke had continuously grown and the parish-ioners were now spread throughout the city Fr. Landry ascertained by means of an 1889 census that the time had come to divide the parish. He showed these figures to the Bishop and requested a new French speaking parish which the Bishop founded. Father Landry then initiated a successful fund-raising project for the new parish. His never robust health failed and he died on July 5, 1890.

Reverend Charles Crevier, pastor of the Canadian parish in Indian Orchard, succeeded Father Landry and took office on September 7, 1890. He labored valiantly to erect the present large rectory, and built a new twelve classroom school behind the church (recently torn down). He also refurbished the church, installing the stained-glass windows and the chimes. He enclosed the church property with an iron fence on a granite base.

Bishop Beaven appointed Father J. Horace Gelineau as administrator of Precious Blood in December, 1917 to aid the ailing Father Crevier. Another era of progress was under way. Father Gelineau enhanced the church land, replaced the original wooden support beams, painted the inside of the church and installed the tableaux, saw to the remodeling of the new facade. On January 2, 1922, Bishop Thomas O'Leary, a new bishop of Springfield, blessed the renewed church. In 1923, a six classroom annex was added to the school which in 1926 established its commercial course—the forerunner to the Precious Blood High School.

Death struck Father Crevier on January 19, 1927. He was 88 years old and had worked for thirty-seven years for the Franco-Americans of South Holyoke.

Reverend Gedeon Fontaine was appointed pastor on August 1, 1927. He made necessary repairs at the convent and reduced the parish debt. In 1929 he bought the abandoned Park Street School from the city of Holyoke for \$15,000. He also began the work of renewal at the cemetery which had long been neglected. He died soon after in 1937.

On the day of Father Fontaine's death, Father William J. Morin, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Fitchburg, was named administrator of Precious Blood.

To underline that fact that the Sisters of Saint Anne had been teaching in the parish for fifty years he undertook to transform the Park Street School which the parish now owned into a comfortable new convent. Their former residence was bought



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by the Blais family and became a funeral parlor. Father Morin also renovated the church, and finished the cemetery renewal and further reduced the parish debt by \$40,000.

Father Morin's health failed and Father François Dufresne was named administrator in the spring of 1952. Father Morin resigned as pastor in 1952 and died in July of 1953.

Father Eugene E. Guerin was named his successor in January, 1953. His eleven years and two months were to be most fruitful for the parish.

In May of 1953, he initiated and brought to a successful conclusion a drive for \$100,000 and purchased the Hamilton Street School which was transformed into the Precious Blood High School, whose doors opened in September, 1953, under the direction of the Sisters of Saint Anne and operated until 1972. The High School was a credit to the educational system of Holyoke.

He remodeled the elementary school in 1955 and renovated and enlarged the Precious Blood convent. All of this was paid for before his departure from the parish.

In January, 1964, Pope John XXIII elevated him to the rank of domestic prelate with the title of Monsignor.

An enthusiastic parish feted Msgr. Guerin with love and admiration. The parish was saddened, however, when it learned in March, 1964 that Father Guerin was transferred to St. Rose de Lima Parish in Aldenville.

Reverend Archibald R. Lajoie was named to succeed Monsignor Guerin. Shortly after his arrival, work was begun on a new esplanade in the front of the church. In 1965, the new Precious Blood Memorial Hall was made available to the people. New vestibules and sacristies were completed in 1966.

The entire church building was rewired with fire detectors. Renovation of the church has been temporarily halted because of the existing debt.

### EARLY SETTLERS

Most sources list the following men as the heads of the pioneer French Canadian families in Holyoke: Nicholas Proulx, Narcisse Francoeur, Casal Viens, Furmence Hamel, Charles Provost.

The following is a list of early French Canadian settlers and the year in which they arrived in Holyoke.

1858	Nicholas Proulx	1875	Pierre Bonvouloir
1860	John St Onge	1876	S. J. Benoit
1860	Furmence Hamel	1878	O. Z. Charest
1862	Frank Rivers	1879	Valere Ducharme
1864	Gilbert Potvin	1880	Fred Gervais
1865	Anthyme Menard	1881	J. Mizael Piquette
1867	Daniel Proulx	1882	John St. John
1868	Charles Provost	1884	Charles V. Roy
	Leon Jeremie Laporte	1885	Joseph Massé
	Val Moquin		Césaire Bail
1869	Alfred Therrien	1886	George Savoy
	Joseph LaFrance	1888	Joseph Masse
	Louis A. LaFrance	1891	Arthur Vincent
1870	Pierre Riel	1893	Dr. A. J. Daigneault
1871	Louis Potvin	1894	M. Beauregard
1872	Clovis Robert	1898	Dr. Henri Chaput
1873	Dr. Francis X. Patoel		

## NOTES ON SOME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS:

NICHOLAS PROULX was born in St. Ours, Quebec, in the town which his ancestors settled after being driven out of Nova Scotia where they had come from France. He is listed as living in Holyoke in 1858 but it is certain that he was in the area before that since his son George J. was born in West Springfield in 1855. He had a family of five daughters and three sons: Sophia, Louisa (Mrs. A. C. Lawrence), Mary, (Mrs. Damas Chabot), Josephine (Mrs. J. G. McCarthy) whose daughter Lina is Mrs. J. Wilbur Murray of Holyoke, and Lina who was burned to death on her 18th birthday, August 18, 1859, (a kerosene lamp was responsible for the tragedy), the aforementioned son George J. (clothier), John J. (contractor and brick manufacturer), and Joseph N. (merchant and real estate owner and dealer).

FURMENCE HAMEL came to Holyoke from St. Paul, Quebec, with his wife and family—8 sons and 2 daughters. He had been a school teacher in Canada and came to work in the Lyman Mills. Dissatisfied, he transferred to the Newton Paper Co. For the last 23 years of his life he was employed by the Connecticut River Railroad Co.

FRANK RIVERS was a journeyman. He operated a partnership called Rivers and Young.

GILBERT POTVIN was one of the largest contractors of his time. He built many "blocks" in the city, particularly in the Ward One area. He had three children: Gilbert Jr., Rachel (Mrs. Robert Marshall—still living in Holyoke) and Marion (Mrs. Jules Larsen).

DANIEL PROULX, a harness maker, first worked for W. L. Martin, then bought it as a partnership—Fairfield-Proulx, and still later became its sole owner.

CHARLES PROVOST came to Holyoke with "more children than dollars". He worked as a laborer for the Water Power Co. where he learned the building trade, and in 1874, erected his first "block" in Ward One with Gilbert Potvin.

LEON JEREMIE LAPORTE came with his wife and 7 children. He went into the delivery business. His children were Cordelia, Georgiana, Danilda and Celina (organist and director of the 50 voices choir at Precious Blood Church), Leon (druggist), Leo (carpet cleaning business and furniture mover), Medric J. (piano mover, express service and storage—he owned 9 delivery wagons and had the contract for all deliveries made to the Opera House).

ALFRED THERRIEN was the agent for the Central Vt. Railroad.

JOSEPH A. LAFRANCE came to Holyoke at 17 years of age and immediately joined the local Fire Dept., May 13, 1869 where he served for 54 years rising to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief.

LOUIS A. LAFRANCE moved to Holyoke with his family at the age of three. His mother died shortly after and he grew up in the family of Gilbert Potvin, learning the contracting business from him and being associated in it with him. He "built Holyoke". He constructed 126 "blocks", 1,796 apartments and 32 stores—\$3,003,000 in value. In 1842 he was the largest taxpayer in the city and, over the last 10 years, he had paid in taxes a total of \$77,472.00.

PIERRE RIEL and his wife, parents of Anna and Ulric Riel, now deceased but formerly owners of the well-known Real Baby Shop, came to Holyoke from Cohoes, N. Y.

LOUIS POTVIN and his wife, Sophie Proulx, came here from St. Ours, Quebec. Sophie was Nicholas' sister and the mother of many sons and daughters. Two of these were A. M. Potvin (clothier) who had two daughters—Lillian and Lena (Mrs. Albert Duval), and A. H. Potvin, (liquor dealer and real estate owner) father of William H. Potvin.



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CLOVIS ROBERT was a real estate agent for the Holyoke and Westfield Railroad.

PIERRE BONVOULOIR, prominent in the city, operated a grocery store when he first came to Holyoke. He had three daughters: Lillian (Mrs. Varigault), Cozette (Mrs. Smith) and Annette (Mrs. Alfred G. Lavoie) and one son, Lionel.

S. J. BENOIT operated a mercantile store on Dwight St. near Walnut.

O. Z. E. CHAREST was a partner in the furniture business, Ste Marie and Charest on Main St. He was the father of Miss Antoinette Charest and Dr. Romeo P. Charest.

VALERE DUCHARME came to Holyoke in 1879 with his family. He was then 12 years old. He married Corinne Lescault and his children were Clement (lawyer), Camille, Oliva, Lucien, Fernand (lawyer) and Paul. He first worked for Ste. Marie & Beauchemin, groceries and meats, then went into partnership with A. D. Durocher at 291 Main Street. Later he opened his own grocery and meat business at 272 Main Street, corner of Spring Street.

FRED GERVAIS was a stone cutter and liquor dealer.

J. MIZEL PIQUETTE was the agent for the White sewing machine and also he represented a company that sold pianos, organs and musical instruments.

JOHN ST. JOHN was a carpenter and brickmaker. He learned the contracting business and became a general contractor. He remodeled the McCoy residence into a rectory for the old Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours.

CESAIRE BAIL came to Holyoke with his 2 daughters and 3 sons. His son Samuel was a photographer and his studio was located at Hampden and High. Jean Baptiste, a cobbler, worked with his brother Timoleon (called Napoleon) for one year at a shop on Hamilton Street to teach him the trade. Napoleon then opened his own shoe repair shop in 1890 on Hampden Street just below High. This was the very humble beginning of the Napoleon Bail Shoe Store. Napoleon's wife was Herminie Lemieux and Oscar A. Bail is their son. He together, with his son Oscar J. Bail and his grandson, Christopher L. Bail are now operating the family business.

GEORGE SAVOY started as an office boy for the National Blank Book Co., later became their traveling representative, then he was made gen.-supt. of the National Blank Book Co. (canadian division) in St. John, Quebec. He purchased the division which is now owned and operated by his son Harold as the Dominion Blank Book Co. He married Lina Prew, daughter of John J. Prew. They had four sons: Paul (killed in action at Dieppe), Prew (who became a lawyer and practiced in Washington, D. C.) and John (now living in Florida).

JOSEPH MASSE operated a grocery and meat store in the city.

ARTHUR VINCENT was the founder of the Vincent Drug Store, corner Main and Cabot. He had two children: Lucette and Paul who also was a druggist.

JOHN E. FESSANT was a pharmacist.

M. BEAUREGARD opened a drug store at 104 High Street.

It is evident that, although many of the first Canadian settlers were common laborers and mill workers, they soon included skilled workmen, tradesmen, business men and professionals and were an economic asset to the community.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Once the French speaking church and school had been established, the French Canadian community set about organizing societies for its mutual benefit. The first to be founded in Holyoke was the St-Jean-Baptiste Society, established in 1872. This was an independent local fraternal and mutual aid organization, one of many such to be found wherever sizeable groups of French Canadians settled. Members contributed a small yearly sum to a fund to be used "for welfare purposes, to succour members stricken by adversity or sickness, and to give decent burial to those who should die in poverty". Leaders of these various independent benevolent societies felt the necessity of bringing them together in one strong organization and struggled vainly to this end for many years. Finally, in February 1899, a Holyoke convention organized by a "Committee of Six" appointed by the local St-Jean-Baptiste society and headed by Edouard Cadieux brought together delegates from societies in New England and New York state to discuss a plan for an overall federation. Edouard Cadieux of Holyoke was instrumental in organizing the plan to ally the societies in a federated Union St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amerique and he was named its first Supreme-President. The federation was officially recognized by the state of Rhode Island on May 7, 1900 and its headquarters are in Woonsocket. (Massachusetts and Holyoke lost out as a federation center because of unfavorable state laws.) The Saint-Jean-Baptiste Société of Holyoke, which had initiated the project, joined the federation as Council Number 1 and continues to this day—an offshoot of that very first French Canadian society established in 1872 and a tribute to the organizational abilities of the early French Canadian Holyokers.

A list of the original Saint-Jean-Baptiste charter members follows: Achille Monty, Dr. R. G. Moorhead, Edouard Laroche, Pierre Monat, L. P. Lavallée, Herode Simon, F. S. Brochu, Jean-Baptiste Bernier, Edouard Robet, Alexis Regneault, Edouard Villeneuve, Charles Aubertin, Elie Villeneuve, P. P. Pepin, Pierre Loiselle, Pierre Adam, Prudent Monty, Joseph Lacoste, Olivier Loiselle, R. Mainville, Fabien Bruneau, Joseph Villeneuve, Didace Sainte-Marie.

On January 4, 1887 a reorganization of the society took place and the following names constitute the new charter members: Pierre Bonvouloir, D. Proulx, O. Z. E. Charest, M. M. Metivier, J. B. Martineau, A. Benoit, F. Menard, E. Gagne, E. Cadieux, E. Coulombe, G. Ducharme. By 1889, the society had 350 on its roll.

Other benevolent, fraternal, religious, educational, civic and service organizations founded by the French in Holyoke are, in order of organization, L'Union Canadienne (founded by Joseph Beauchemin), La Ligue du Sacre Coeur (one of the first such Leagues of the Sacred Heart established in 1884 at the conclusion of a mission preached by its founder, Fr. E. Hamon, S.J.) with a membership of 1000 in 1889. Cour Mont Royal des Forestiers, Les Artisans, Heptasophs, Le Cercle Rochambeau, Le Club de Naturalization, and the Beavers.

### CERCLE ROCHAMBEAU

The French Canadian has always liked to get together to discuss and argue issues and to have a good time. Many social clubs, such as Le Chasseur, Les Montagnards, Le Cercle Lafayette, formed for this form of camaraderie, appeared and soon after disappeared. Very little is known about them. However, we do know that on July 14, 1900, thirteen men met at the Forestiers Hall in Willimansett with the avowed purpose of founding a purely social club. The club was and is the Cercle Rochambeau and the thirteen were George H. Fugere, George J. Chagnon, Emile Ethier, Joseph Gaumont, Damien Majeau, Joseph Majeau, Herve Neveu, John V. Richard, Noel Theriault, Albert Thomas, Joseph Turcot, Philias Champagne, Walter Larivee who together with Louis Champagne are named as the founding members on the state charter. The Cercle motto—"S'Instruire et S'Amuser"—bespeaks its character and foretold its activities. The first meeting place was a hall in the Swift Building, Main Street, Holyoke, and the



club records show that Joseph Turcot advanced \$100.00 of his own money to help to furnish it. As the membership grew, the Cercle Rochambeau transferred its locale first to the Flat Iron building and then to the new Monument National Can.-Fr. (the present home of Kelley's Lobster House), then again to the Dreikorn Building and to the new Bijou Theatre building on Main Street near Cabot. (This building was torn down not too long ago to make way for the Main Street parking lot). The Bijou Theatre Building housed one of the first movie theatres as well as the Cercle headquarters and the Bijou Pool Hall and was built and operated by Frank Rainault, one of the Cercle Rochambeau members and the oldest of the Rainault brothers, who each in his own way left his mark on Holyoke. Frank was a merchant, builder and promoter of numerous business ventures; Arthur was a musician and with his wife, Blanche, performed with local orchestras and for the silent movie presentations; Homer became a well known fight promoter and stage show entrepreneur who had the imagination to envision and to transform the old Holyoke gas-house into a sports arena and night club and Edward became owner and operator of The Wells Hardware Co., located on the corner of Main and Cabot Streets and one of the largest retail hardware stores in the city. Dollard, another brother, was a street-car motorman who died as the result of a tragic accident and Ralph moved from the city after serving in World War I. Much later the Cercle moved its headquarters to 453 High St. to what was formerly known as the Golden Eagle Hall and it is presently housed in its new home on Rt. 5 in Smith's Ferry, formerly the White Restaurant establishment. At its Bijou Theatre Building location, the Cercle installed an extensive library for its members, brought in well known lecturers and in 1913 organized a drum corps, an orchestra and a theatrical troupe. There is a record of nine different French plays which were performed at various times. Interestingly, one of these was "Le Voyage de M. Perrichon" which will be presented by the parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Friday evening, June 22, as part of the French Centennial Week's activities. The Cercle also held competitive pitch, pool and checkers tournaments with other clubs in the area and, in 1914, member "Willie" Beauregard won the World Checkers Championship at the Cercle Rochambeau from Mr. Gendron of Montreal. The Cercle Rochambeau also fielded a baseball team in the City League and sixty years ago inaugurated the first of its annual Sugar Eat and Corn Eat outings which have since been held every year for its members and Holyoke citizens. This year the Cercle Rochambeau Annual Sugar Eat will be held Sunday, June 17th, as a feature of the French Centennial Week activities. In 1915, the Cercle, as an educational and civic gesture, held a mock election and set up a Model City Council which functioned at meetings held to explain the workings of the municipal government to members and to the community. The Cercle Bowling League, known as the Vegetable League, has been in existence since 1920 and is the oldest continuous Franco-American candlepin bowling league in the state. The Cercle Rochambeau has been a factor in the social life of the Franco-Americans for the 73 years of its existence.

#### BEAVERS CLUB

The newest important organization for citizens of French extraction of greater Holyoke is the BEAVERS CLUB, a business and professional men's service club. The late Telephore Bourassa was its founder and first president. The very first meeting was held at the Roger Smith Hotel on the night of June 14, 1945. By-laws were adopted and a slate of officers was chosen. On September 19, these officers were elected and took office with a firm determination to make the BEAVERS known for its purpose as expressed in the by-laws:

"The object of this organization is the promotion of solidarity and the stimulation of better social and business relations among citizens of French extraction, in Hampden and Hampshire Counties".

The members, officers and directors were very quick to give this by-law the broadest interpretation so that the BEAVERS CLUB has helped citizens of French extraction by helping all people.

(Continued on Page 32)

THE FRANCO-AMERICAN  
CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL WEEK COMMITTEE

*Honorary Chairmen*

The Honorable William S. Taupier  
Mayor of the City of Holyoke

Reverend Monsignor Rosario L. U. Montcalm, pastor  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Reverend Archibald R. Lajoie, pastor  
Precious Blood

Reverend Father Roland A. Nadeau, M. S., pastor  
Immaculate Conception

*General Chairman*  
Mrs. Ernest J. Davignon

Co-chairmen: Mr. Roland J. Majeau and Mrs. William H. Potvin

*Committee Members*

Mr. Paul H. Authier  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Authier  
Mrs. Robert H. Benoit  
Mr. Rene J. Contant  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo W. Degon  
Mr. Richard A. Depelteau  
Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Desjardins  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Dietrich  
Mr. Norman E. Gouin  
Mr. John L. Houle

Mr. Alcide Labrecque  
Mr. J. Maurice Lacasse  
Mrs. Phillippe H. LaRochelle  
Mrs. Arthur C. Lavallee  
Miss Yolande V. Menard  
Mr. William H. Potvin  
Mr. Gerard C. Raymond  
Miss Noella M. Robare  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael C. Scheurer  
Mr. and Mrs. Roland P. Tellier  
Miss Lydia N. Therrien

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## PROGRAM OF FRENCH CENTENNIAL EVENTS

### FRANCO-AMERICAN FESTIVAL WEEK

#### *"La Semaine du Festival"*

Saturday, June 16

LES MUTINS DE LONGUEUIL

8:00 p.m. Holyoke High School Auditorium

Sunday, June 17

CENTENNIAL MASS

9:30 a.m. Precious Blood Church

CERCLE ROCHAMBEAU'S 60TH ANNUAL SUGAR EAT

11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. New Pavilion.

Route 5, Smiths Ferry

FRENCH QUADRILLE DANCING

8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cercle Rochambeau's New Pavilion, Smiths Ferry

Wednesday, January 20

UNE SOIREE MUSICALE

8:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Parish Hall.

Friday, June 22

LE VOYAGE DE M. PERRICHON

French Comedy played by Parish Members

8:00 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall.

Saturday, June 23

LE BAL DU FESTIVAL

Wyckoff Park Country Club.

Sunday, June 24

CONCELEBRATED MASS IN HONOR OF ST-JEAN-BAPTISTE

5:00p.m. — Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

French Buffet, Parish Hall.



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The successors to Telesphore Bourassa have mobilized the forces of the BEAVERS, pledged to "Service Through Membership", and have carried on to great accomplishments. Each member knows the value to him of his association with his fellow Beavers but the entire community knows the material gains which have come to it and its members through the generous actions of this club. The untiring efforts of the various committees have raised over the past 28 years a total of slightly over \$80,000, by sponsoring many fun-filled activities open to the public, which has been donated to various charities and deserving organizations in the Connecticut Valley. In addition to these funds the members have contributed their skills and talents — actually they worked like beavers — to painting and building projects. No one ever calculated the value of such services but much has been accomplished. The BEAVERS CLUB is one of the finest service clubs in the area with an enviable record of service to the community, and as its motto proclaims it is "Dedicated to Service".

Officers and directors for the year 1973-74 are as follows: Paul Methe, President; Richard Brunelle, Chairman of the Board; Ronald Dietrich, Secretary; John Dall, Treasurer; Robert Cyr, Financial Secretary. Directors: Donald Lafrenie, Past President, Norman Cyr, Wilbur Simard, Elmer Lussier, Robert Bourassa, Oliver Lamoureux, Victor Provost, Jr., and Homer Morneau.

## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

From the earliest times, women of the French speaking community had their own organizations. Each parish grouped the married women in a Société des Dames de Sainte-Anne and the young ladies in a Société des Enfants-de-Marie. These religious sodalities continue to this day and are an active part of parish life.

In 1895 a group called Le Cercle Guilmant was organized. Old histories of Holyoke mention that it was a musical organization of leading French ladies, vocal and instrumental performers of ability. They neglect to say how long it continued.

Le Cercle Français, later called Le Cercle Littéraire Français was organized in Holyoke in 1910 by and for francophones and francophiles. This women's literary club was allied to the greater Alliance Française of France and held regular meetings where French literary works were discussed. All meetings were conducted in French and the critical revues were written and read in this language. This prestigious women's club ceased to exist in 1972. Mrs. A. Omer Hebert was its last president.

Le Cercle Passe-Temps was a social club for the leading young ladies of Holyoke from 1925 to 1937.

Le Cercle des Dames Françaises a social and cultural French club serves the greater Springfield area at the present time. It was founded by Miss Clementine Poirier to promote the French language and culture. Its membership is limited to two-hundred and numbers many Holyoke women in its ranks. Regular monthly meetings are conducted in French and its program features cultural and social events. Its fund-raising activities support charitable contributions and scholarships to young ladies of French descent who wish to study French. It sponsors a Bal Début for daughters, grand-daughters and nieces of its members.

Le Cercle des Grand-mamans was founded by Mrs. Marie-Louise Chevalier, recently deceased. This dynamic leader, a sister of Oscar DeRoy, made this club an active social organization for older French citizens. The club enjoys both social and fund-raising events and has also established many scholarships for both boys and girls of French descent.

There are many other active French women's organizations in Holyoke.



## BANK AND CREDIT UNION

The French people are building prone. Once churches and schools were set in, the urge was upon them to own property, to build homes, to erect tenement buildings.

In 1889, several influential French citizens of Holyoke, under the leadership of Pierre Bonvouloir, founded the City Cooperative Bank, a cooperative loan association. It was organized July 1, chartered July 16 and, with an authorized capitalization of \$1,000,000, began operating on July 23, 1889, in the special interest of the French people of Holyoke. The French motto "Faire Fructifier L'Epargne" urged them to be savings-minded.

Officers in 1901 were Daniel Proulx, pres., Joseph LaPorte, vice-pres., Pierre Bonvouloir, sec. and treas., A. F. Gingras, John St. John, Leon Laporte, Val Moquin, O. E. Genest, S. J. Bonvouloir, A. J. N. Desmarais, L. T. Beaulieu and Joseph Masse, directors.

It has played a special part in the lives and economic success of the Franco-Americans of the city enabling the average worker to own his own home and loaning working capital to ambitious but sometimes not too financially well-endowed businessmen and builders of the French community.

Present officers are Fernand R. Ducharme, President; Edgar Bouchard, Vice-President; Alphonse C. Turcotte, Vice-President; France R. Lacoste, Treasurer; Monique, Ducharme, Asst. Treasurer.

Directors: Pierre Angers II, Richard C. Bonneville, Edgar Bouchard, Fernand R. Ducharme, Norman Marquis, Paul F. Perreault, Leslie Rogers, Ernest J. Ross, Leon A. Stankiewicz, Dr. Roland F. Stebbins, Louis A. Tonelli, Alphonse C. Turcotte and William Werenski.

In June 1911, a group of citizens wishing to encourage thrift and develop mutual savings for members and school children of the Perpetual Help Church was granted a banking charter. This credit union was known as the Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours Credit Union of Holyoke, Mass. The first meeting of the incorporation was held at Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours School Building, corner of Prospect and Maple Streets and Rev. Joseph Marchand was unanimously elected chairman and Joseph C. Drapeau was elected temporary clerk. By-laws were approved and adopted and the following were the first elected directors: Napoleon Bail, Henri Bourque, H. O. Beauchamp, Elzear Vautrain, P. W. Normand, Joseph Lussier, Pierre Bonvouloir, Edouard Samson, Joseph C. Drapeau. At this time the association's office was in the Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours School Building.

Successful from its very beginning, the bank was revised in January 1919 as the Holyoke Credit Union in order to broaden and enlarge its field of activities to all citizens of Holyoke and vicinity. Its location was then listed as 380 High Street (Room 305-6-7) Holyoke, Mass.

After more than half a century in these quarters the Holyoke Credit Union moved to 215 High Street where they are presently operating.

Present officers are: Oscar A. Bail, president.  
Louis Y. Chartier, vice-president.  
Charles E. Goddu, treasurer.  
Maurice L. Fournier, asst. treas. and clerk.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
(NOTRE DAME DU PERPETUEL SECOURS)

FOUNDED 1890

Pastors: Reverend Charles-Edouard Brunault, 1890-1904.  
Reverend Joseph Marchand, 1904-1938.  
Reverend Pierre H. Gauthier, 1938-1960.  
Reverend Antonio Dufault, 1961-1967.  
Monsignor Rosario L. U. Montcalm, June 23, 1967.

Following a large migration of French speaking people from the province of Quebec around 1890, when many additional families came to the area, the need was felt for another French speaking church in Holyoke. His Excellency Msgr. Patrick T. O'Reilly, first bishop of Springfield, founded a new parish, defined its limits, and assigned to it the 800 French speaking families living in what was then considered the north of the city, the Front Street area. The Reverend Charles Edouard Bruneault, former curate of Precious Blood Church and then pastor in Gardner, Mass., was named pastor of the new parish which was to be known as Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours. On May 25, 1890, the new pastor and his parishioners met and decided to erect a four story brick building on a lot facing Prospect Park. The ground floor was to be the church proper and the other three floors would house twelve classrooms, the parish hall and the Sisters' Convent. Meanwhile, two teachers, Sisters Louis-de-Gonzague and Jean-Berchmans, of the order of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, were housed in a home on Mosher Street and, beginning in September, 1891, school was conducted for the first parish students in quarters provided for them by St. Jerome in the Temperance Hall. Fr. Landry, pastor of Precious Blood, the Mother-Church, set about organizing a huge and very successful fund-raising bazaar for the new parish. Mr. A. F. Newman was the architect and Mr. James Hebert of Northampton was the builder of the new church and the parish building was completed in January, 1892. The parishioners gathered in St. Jerome church and, led in procession by Msgr. Harkins, marched to the dedication ceremonies of their new parish center. Father Charles Crevier, the new pastor of Precious Blood, was the main speaker for the occasion.

In 1896, the McCoy residence, at the corner of Maple and Fountain Streets, was purchased and remodeled to serve as a rectory. The architect for the project was Mr. George P. B. Alderman and the contractor was John St. John. At the same time land, which was to be used as a cemetery for the parish, was acquired in South Hadley Falls.

Fr. Bruneault, the pastor, was an accomplished musician. He is mentioned as being "one of the finest organists and directors in the Connecticut Valley who frequently gives some very excellent concerts of classic music." He purchased and installed a \$2,725.00 Casavant organ in the church, the first such organ in the country, and this fact is also mentioned in early histories of the city. Importing other fine musical instruments from France, he organized and led a parish orchestra known as L'Harmonie Notre-Dame" which held regular rehearsals in the school hall and gave benefit concerts for the parish. Miss Eugénie Lambert, parish organist, was also considered a talented artist.

On October, 1904, Father Bruneault, in failing health, feeling that his task had been accomplished, retired to his native Canada.

Father Joseph Marchand, another native Canadian, was named pastor at this time and, a parish census showed the need for still another French speaking parish. With the Bishop's blessing, he established a mission church in the Ward One section of the city and assigned to it the 800 members of his parish who were living in that area. He served as interim pastor.



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Father Marchand, realizing that the residential center of Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours parish was shifting to the northwest area of the city, had the foresight to buy a parcel of land on Chestnut Street as a future building site. He acquired additional land adjacent to the Notre-Dame cemetery, paid off the remaining financial obligations of the parish and later arranged for the sale of the parish center to the Polish parish-ioners who were eager to found Mater Dolorosa.

Construction of the new church at the Chestnut Street location was begun in 1922. Mr. Louis Caron of Nicolet, Quebec, was the architect for the edifice and Mr. Louis A. LaFrance was the general contractor. The church was completed and consecrated on October 14, 1923, with His Excellency, Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary officiating at the ceremonies. The rectory was completed in 1926 and the convent and school was erected in 1927. Father Marchand administered the parish until his death in 1938.

Father Pierre H. Gauthier, born in Manchaug, Massachusetts, was named to suc-ceed Father Marchand. He was a former curate of the parish and pastor of Assump-tion parish in Chicopee. A World War I Chaplain, he was a Captain in the Army Chaplain Reserve Corps and served as Chaplain of the Holyoke American Legion and also as diocesan Chaplain of the Union-Saint-Jean-Baptiste d'Amerique.

A talented musician and a lover of good music he sponsored and encouraged the musical talent in his parish. He purchased and installed a magnificent 58 pipes church organ which was inaugurated, on May 16, 1943, by Dr. Charles Courboin, organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Dr. Courboin was again the featured organist at a recital in 1950 at the time of the parish's 60th anniversary celebration.

Father Gauthier completed the interior decoration of the church, including the in-stallation of stained glass windows and a new altar. He was able, to completely dis-charge the mortgage of \$210,500 which the parish had been burdened with for many years. These activities speak highly of his administrative abilities and for the generos-ity of the parish.

Upon the death of Fr. Gauthier, October 18, 1960, a temporary administrator was named and on January 14, 1961, Reverend Antonio Dufault was named pastor of Notre-Dame. He completely renovated the school and convent and installed new church doors as part of the vestibule reconstruction. In poor health for several years, he died on June 23, 1967.

Monsignor Rosario L. U. Montcalm was immediately named to succeed Father Dufault as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. A parish son, he was warmly wel-comed by the parishioners. He had enlisted, as a young priest, in the Army Air Corps and is the first secular priest to be Command Chaplain at the U. S. Air Force Acad-emy. He retired in 1965 with the rank of Colonel.

The task of replacing the church steps and remodeling the sanctuary to conform with the requests of Vatican II fell to Monsignor Montcalm. He has also implemented the other demands of the Council. He is very active in the local and diocesan ecumen-ical movement and is an asset to the community.

Monsignor Montcalm has the rare distinction of having known all of his pre-decessors at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
(IMMACULEE CONCEPTION)

1904

Pastors: Reverend J. V. Campeau, 1905-1911.  
Reverend H. Gelineau, 1911-1912.  
Reverend P. C. Triquet, M. S., 1912-1921.  
Reverend P. J. Guinet, M. S., 1921-1923.  
Reverend Julian Ginét, M. S., 1923-1949.  
Reverend P. Alphonse Hébert, M. S., 1949-1951.  
Reverend Arthur Brodeur, M. S., 1951-1956.  
Reverend Roland Nadeau, M. S., 1956.

In 1903, Father Bruneault, pastor of Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours, aware that a great number of his parishioners resided in the Ward One section of the city began to think in terms of a mission church for these people. Father Marchand, who replaced him when he retired, established this auxiliary mission of Notre-Dame in 1904 when he started to construct the basement of a projected church. The basement was to be used as a church while the search for construction funds continued. Finally convinced by the parish census figures that a new parish was necessary, Fr. Marchand requested the bishop to found one, offering to relinquish 800 families among his parishioners who were living within the boundaries of the proposed parish. He continued to serve them, as a mission of the founding church, until 1905 when the Reverend J. V. Campeau was officially named pastor of the newly established Immaculate Conception parish by Msgr. T. D. Beaven, bishop of Springfield. In 1907, Fr. Campeau acquired from the city the school on the corner of Bridge and East Dwight. The school was remodeled and opened the same year for the children of the parish under the direction of the Sisters of Presentation of Mary. In 1908, he built a much-needed new rectory. This building was erected on the actual site of the present church.

Reverend Horace Gelineau succeeded Reverend Campeau as pastor in 1910. He administered the parish as then constituted.

In 1912, Reverend Father P. Camille Triquet, M. S. replaced Father Gelineau. He strengthened and expanded the religious organizations within the parish.

In 1916, a fire destroyed the old school. The children were temporarily housed by Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours in their school and taught on a part-time basis during off-hours of the school day until the new fifteen classroom school was constructed. This school was immediately filled to capacity and classes were conducted in the basement hall to accomodate the overflow.

In 1921 Reverend Father Jean Guinet, M. S. came to Immaculate Conception as the new pastor. His dream was to erect a magnificent new church. He died before he could see this dream realized.

In 1923 Reverend Father P. M. J. Ginét, M. S. was named pastor and assumed the task of erecting a new convent and church. Immediately difficulties arose. It was found that the old site was not suitable and it would be too costly to correct the faults. It was then that the pastor had the happy inspiration to build a parish hall over the basement that had served as a church for so long. Plans called for an auditorium with a stage to be used for theatre presentations, and a well-equipped kitchen center.

Once this had been agreed upon and begun, the search was on for a new church site. The only one that seemed suitable was the one where the new and beautiful rectory stood—the spot on North Summer facing Ely Street. It was decided to move the rectory and to buy more land. The Holyoke Water Power owned the land from Mosher to Albion Street and this area was bought for \$31,500 and another lot adjoining this land was purchased from Jeremy Shea at the cost of \$5,750.00.



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Meanwhile the old convent was moved to Canal and Albion Streets and construction was started on the new building which was completed in 1925.

A plan for the new church, submitted to the Bishop met with his approval. Construction was started June 25, 1925—the corner stone was laid October 11 and the beautiful Gothic-style structure was completed and blessed September, 1927.

This construction program had been very costly and in 1929 the stock market crash started a long-lasting depression.

By 1930 the parishioners could not even contribute enough money to pay the interest on the mortgage.

This sad state of affairs lasted until 1935 when the parish came up with the Friday evening Bingo parties as a means of raising money. These weekly affairs continued through 1950 and enabled the parish to pay off the huge debt, maintain and eventually renovate the rectory, the convent and the parish hall, and install a Casavant organ in the church.

Father Ginot retired in 1949 and Reverend Father Alphonse Hebert who replaced him is the one responsible for the organ installation.

Father Brodeur was named pastor in 1951 and he oversaw the installation of a new stained glass window in the church.

The beautiful stained glass rose window on the facade of the church was the gift of Mr. Joseph Skinner and Mr. William Skinner in 1927. It was greatly appreciated by the parishioners and did much to enhance the beauty of the church.

The present pastor is the Reverend Father Roland Nadeau. He was named in 1956.

In September 1971, Holy Rosary and Immaculate Conception merged their educational facilities with the I. C. school building accomodating pupils in kindergarten through grade four and the Rosary building used for grades five through eight.

## PARISH LIFE AND INFLUENCE

The three French speaking Catholic parishes in Holyoke have played an important role in the lives of their parishioners. They helped them to maintain their cultural heritage—religion, language, traditions.

They launched the organizations, established the schools, and provided the social activities—concerts, dramatic presentations, “soirées, goûters, bazars, pique-niques”.

They formed the taste in music. Their choirs, their organists and their soloists were justly famous. They encouraged those who showed musical talent.

A glance at the events listed in the program shows that the parish remains a strong part of the Franco-American's life and that its influence is still felt. It has accomplished its goal. Our heritage—religion, language, traditions—lives on!

*Historically Researched and Edited by Vivian Rainault Potvin*

The following is a list of the Holyoke people of French descent who have held and now holding Elective and Appointive Office in City and State Government and is proof of their active role in politics.

## STATE GOVERNMENT

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- 1929-1930 Charles D. Chevalier (R) — 12th Hampden (Wards 1, 2, 4)  
 1931-1932 Charles D. Chevalier (R) — 12th Hampden  
 1933-1934 Charles D. Chevalier (R) — 12th Hampden  
 1937-1938 Oscar J. DeRoy (R) — 12th Hampden (Wards 1, 2, 4)  
 1939-1941 Oscar J. DeRoy (R) — 12th Hampden

### APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR

#### SPECIAL JUDGE, HOLYOKE DISTRICT COURT

1958- George N. Beauregard

#### CLERK, HOLYOKE DISTRICT COURT

1922-1933 Clement E. Ducharme 1956- Annette C. Grandchamp

#### HOLYOKE SOLDIER'S HOME COMMISSION

1954-1961 Ernest J. Quenneville 1961- Robert H. Bourassa

#### AMERICAN AND CANADIAN FRENCH CULTURAL EXCHANGE COMMISSION

1968- Vivian Rainault Potvin

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

#### MAYOR

1968-1969 William S. Taupier 1972-1973 William S. Taupier  
 1970-1971 William S. Taupier

#### CITY CLERK

1946-1969 Joseph Jubinville, Jr.

#### TREASURER

1895-1932 Pierre Bonvouloir 1933-1944 Lionel Bonvouloir

#### COMMON COUNCIL

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1877 A. G. Ridout — Ward 3       | 1887 Nazaire Beliveau — Ward 2  |
| Dr. M. M. Mitivier — Ward 4      | Louis S. Paquette — Ward 4      |
| 1878 A. G. Ridout — Ward 3       | 1888 Joseph A. Peltier — Ward 1 |
| Didace St. Marie — Ward 4        | Fred St. Martin — Ward 2        |
| 1879 Victor Guyott — Ward 4      | Onesime Viens — Ward 3          |
| 1880 Pierre Bonvouloir — Ward 4  | John Laroche — Ward 4           |
| 1882 Joseph Beauchemain — Ward 2 | 1889 Joseph A. Peltier — Ward 1 |
| John J. Prew — Ward 4            | Fred St. Martin — Ward 2        |
| 1883 Pierre Benoit — Ward 2      | Onesime Viens — Ward 3          |
| John J. Prew — Ward 4            | Napoleon Aubertin — Ward 4      |
| 1884 Didace St. Marie — Ward 2   | 1890 Joseph A. Peltier — Ward 1 |
| Amedee Gingras — Ward 4          | Onesime Viens — Ward 3          |
| 1886 Nazaire Beliveau — Ward 2   | Mederic J. LaPorte — Ward 6     |
| Louis S. Paquette — Ward 4       |                                 |

# COMMON COUNCIL (Cont.)

- |      |                              |      |                                 |
|------|------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 1891 | Arthur DeLaunay — Ward 2     | 1894 | Octave Perreault — Ward 1       |
|      | Ulric Perreault — Ward 3     |      | Fred Gervais — Ward 2           |
|      | Napoleon Aubertin — Ward 4   |      | Fred A. Monat — Ward 2          |
|      | Mederic J. LaPorte — Ward 6  |      | Patrick H. Prendeville — Ward 2 |
|      | Lawrence H. Fortier — Ward 7 |      | Victor S. Laplante — Ward 3     |
| 1892 | Joseph Hebert — Ward 1       |      | Anthyme S. Menard — Ward 4      |
|      | Fred Daze — Ward 2           |      | Salime J. Benoit — Ward 5       |
|      | Ulric Perreault — Ward 3     | 1895 | Fred Gervais — Ward 2           |
|      | Frank D. Blanchette — Ward 4 |      | Fred A. Monat — Ward 2          |
|      | Lawrence H. Fortier — Ward 7 |      | Patrick H. Prendeville — Ward 2 |
| 1893 | Joseph Hebert — Ward 1       |      | Victor S. Laplante — Ward 3     |
|      | Cyril Labrecque — Ward 2     | 1896 | Joseph Beaudry — Ward 2         |
|      | Victor S. Laplante — Ward 3  |      | Patrick H. Prendeville — Ward 2 |
|      | Salime J. Benoit — Ward 5    |      |                                 |

## ALDERMAN

- |      |                              |      |                             |
|------|------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| 1885 | John J. Prew — Ward 4        | 1925 | Adjutor Goddu — Ward 2      |
| 1886 | John J. Prew — Ward 4        |      | Lionel Boucher — Ward 1     |
| 1890 | Joseph Beauchemin — Ward 2   |      | Adjutor Goddu — Ward 2      |
| 1892 | Antoine Marcotte — Ward 2    | 1926 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
|      | Mederic J. LaPorte — Ward 6  |      | Andre Lajoie — Ward 2       |
| 1893 | Fred St. Martin — Ward 2     | 1927 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
|      | Mederic J. LaPorte — Ward 6  |      | Andre Lajoie — Ward 2       |
| 1894 | Fred St. Martin — Ward 2     | 1928 | William A. Dupre — Ward 1   |
| 1895 | Fred St. Martin — Ward 2     |      | Andre Lajoie — Ward 2       |
| 1896 | Fred Gervais — Ward 2        | 1929 | William A. Dupre — Ward 1   |
| 1897 | Fred Gervais — Ward 2        |      | Louis A. Roy — Ward 2       |
| 1898 | Samuel Migneault — Ward 2    | 1930 | William A. Dupre — Ward 1   |
| 1899 | Samuel Migneault — Ward 2    |      | Oliver Labelle — Ward 2     |
|      | William G. Beaudry — Ward 6  | 1931 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
| 1900 | Arthur R. Vincent — Ward 2   |      | Oliver Labelle — Ward 2     |
|      | William G. Beaudry — Ward 6  | 1932 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
| 1901 | Eugene Laramy — Ward 2       |      | William Masse — Ward 2      |
| 1902 | Eugene Laramy — Ward 2       | 1933 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
| 1903 | Eugene Laramy — Ward 2       |      | William Masse — Ward 2      |
| 1904 | Victor S. LaPlante — Ward 2  | 1934 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
| 1905 | Victor S. LaPlante — Ward 2  |      | William Masse — Ward 2      |
| 1906 | Frank Rainault — Ward 2      | 1935 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
| 1907 | Frank Rainault — Ward 2      |      | Gerald R. Sabourin — Ward 2 |
| 1908 | Alfred E. Cousineau — Ward 2 | 1936 | Oscar J. DeRoy — Ward 1     |
| 1909 | Alfred E. Cousineau — Ward 2 |      | Gerald R. Sabourin — Ward 2 |
| 1910 | Alfred E. Cousineau — Ward 2 | 1937 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
| 1912 | Louis E. Emory — Ward 1      |      | Gerald R. Sabourin — Ward 2 |
| 1913 | Charles Boudreau — Ward 2    | 1938 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
| 1914 | Samuel Grandchamp — Ward 2   |      | Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2   |
| 1915 | Louis H. Prevost — Ward 1    | 1939 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
|      | Pierre L. Jarry — Ward 2     |      | Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2   |
|      | George Hamel — Ward 6        | 1940 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
| 1917 | Henry M. LaFontaine — Ward 2 |      | Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2   |
| 1918 | Henry M. LaFontaine — Ward 2 | 1941 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
| 1919 | Henry M. LaFontaine — Ward 2 |      | Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2   |
| 1920 | Henry M. LaFontaine — Ward 2 | 1942 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
| 1921 | Ernest J. Norbert — Ward 2   |      | Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2   |
| 1922 | Lionel Boucher — Ward 1      | 1943 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
|      | Ernest J. Norbert — Ward 2   |      | Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2   |
| 1923 | Lionel Boucher — Ward 1      | 1944 | Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1 |
|      | Adjutor Goddu — Ward 2       |      | Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2   |
| 1924 | Lionel Boucher — Ward 1      |      |                             |

middle letter "E" is  
a mistake; its really A I F Cousineau (Plumber)  
Main St Holyoke



# ALDERMAN

1945	Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1
	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1946	Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1
	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1947	Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1
	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1948	Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1
	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1949	Ernest W. Brunault — Ward 1
	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1950	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1951	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1952	Leo A. Ouellette — Ward 1
	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1953	Leo A. Ouellette — Ward 1
	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1954	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1955	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
1956	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
	Joseph R. Mayer — Ward 3
	Louis H. DuBois — Ward 6
1957	Romeo W. Beaudry — Ward 2
	Joseph R. Mayer — Ward 3
	Louis H. DuBois — Ward 6

1958

Joseph D. Jubinville	— Ward 1
Romeo W. Beaudry	— Ward 2
Louis H. DuBois	— Ward 6
Joseph D. Jubinville	— Ward 1
Romeo W. Beaudry	— Ward 2
Louis H. DuBois	— Ward 6
Joseph D. Jubinville	— Ward 1
Eugene E. Meunier	— Ward 2
Roland E. Carmel	— Ward 3
Louis H. DuBois	— Ward 6
Joseph D. Jubinville	— Ward 1
Eugene E. Meunier	— Ward 2
Louis H. DuBois	— Ward 6
Ernest J. Langlois	— Ward 1
Eugene E. Meunier	— Ward 2
Eugene E. Meunier	— Ward 2
Leonard F. Provost	— Ward 1
Arthur J. Beaulieu	— Ward 2
Leonard F. Provost	— Ward 1
Eugene E. Meunier	— Ward 2
Arthur J. Beaulieu	— Ward 2

# ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE

1897	Daniel Proulx
	Salime J. Benoit
	George A. Savoy
1898	Daniel Proulx
	Joseph Beaudry
1899	Dr. Joseph A. Marin
	Joseph Beaudry
1900	Adelard M. Potvin
	Dr. Joseph A. Marin
1901	Adelard M. Potvin
	William G. Beaudro
	William O. Ducharme
1902	Adelard M. Potvin
	William G. Beaudro
	William O. Ducharme
1903	Adelard M. Potvin
	William G. Beaudro
1904	Eugene Laramay
	William G. Beaudro
1905	Eugene Laramay
1906	Henry J. Southiere
1907	Henry J. Southiere
	Israel Ducharme
1908	Israel Ducharme
	William G. Cantin
1909	Israel Ducharme
	William G. Cantin
1910	Israel Ducharme
	William G. Cantin
	Albert Archambault

1911

Israel Ducharme  
William G. Cantin  
Albert Archambault  
Alfred F. Cousineau  
Israel Ducharme  
William G. Cantin  
Albert Archambault  
Alfred F. Cousineau  
William G. Cantin  
Alfred Archambault  
L. Alphonse Laporte  
Albert Archambault  
L. Alphonse Laporte  
Albert Archambault  
L. Alphonse Laporte  
William G. Cantin  
L. Alphonse Laporte  
William G. Cantin  
George Hamel  
William M. Hart  
L. Alphonse Laporte  
George Hamel  
William M. Hart  
L. Alphonse Laporte  
William M. Hart  
William M. Hart  
Clement E. Ducharme  
Clement E. Ducharme  
Victor Messier



# ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE

1922	Victor Messier	1942	Joseph Jubinville, Jr.
	Joseph O. Coderre		Adelard A. Fortin
	Henry P. Ducharme	1943	Joseph Jubinville, Jr.
1923	Victor Messier		Adelard A. Fortin
	Victor O. Coderre	1844	Joseph Jubinville, Jr.
	Henry P. Ducharme		Adelard A. Fortin
	Adelard A. Fortin	1945	Joseph Jubinville, Jr.
1924	Henry P. Ducharme		Adelard A. Fortin
	Adelard A. Fortin		Henry H. Noel
	Henry P. Ducharme	1946	Adelard A. Fortin
1925	William M. Hart		Henry H. Noel
	Adelard M. Potvin		Mederic J. Lapointe
1926	Lionel Boucher	1947	Adelard A. Fortin
	William M. Hart		Henry H. Noel
	Adelard M. Potvin		Mederic J. Lapointe
1927	Lionel Boucher	1948	Henry H. Noel
	William M. Hart		Mederic J. Lapointe
	Lionel Boucher	1949	Henry H. Noel
1928	Antonio D. Goddu		Mederic J. Lapointe
	William M. Hart	1950	Henry H. Noel
	Lionel Boucher		Mederic J. Lapointe
1929	Antonio D. Goddu	1951	Henry H. Noel
	William M. Hart		Mederic J. Lapointe
	Lionel Boucher	1952	Henry H. Noel
1930	Antonio D. Goddu		Mederic J. Lapointe
	William M. Hart	1953	Henry H. Noel
	Lionel Boucher		Mederic J. Lapointe
1931	Antonio D. Goddu	1954	Robert H. Bourassa
	William M. Hart		Ernest J. Quenneville
	Lionel Boucher		Louis H. DuBois
1932	William M. Hart		Joseph R. Mayer
	Louis H. Prevost	1955	Robert H. Bourassa
1933	Louis H. Prevost		Ernest J. Quenneville
1934	Louis H. Prevost		Louis H. DuBois
1935	Roland F. Peltier		Joseph R. Mayer
	Louis H. Prevost	1960-61	Joseph R. Mayer
1936	Roland F. Peltier	1963	Ernest E. Proulx
	Telesphore J. Bourassa	1964-65	Ernest E. Proulx
1937	Louis H. Prevost		William S. Taupier
	Roland A. Peltier		Louis H. DuBois
	Telesphore J. Bourassa	1966-67	Ernest E. Proulx
1938	Roland A. Peltier		William S. Taupier
	Telesphore J. Bourassa	1968-69	Louis H. DuBois
1939	Telesphore J. Bourassa	1971-	Joseph A. LaRose, III
1940	Telesphore J. Bourassa		
1941	Telesphore J. Bourassa		
	Joseph Jubinville, Jr.		

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1875-1884	Dr. M. M. Mitivier — At Large
1886-1891	Pierre Bonvouloir — At Large
1893-1908	Odilon Z. E. Charest — Ward 2
1909-1911	George W. Messier — Ward 2
1912-1918	Dr. Wilfred G. Deroin — Ward 2
1919-1925	Emile Messier — Ward 2
1926-1933	Alfred E. Cousineau — Ward 2
1931-1957	William A. Dupre — Ward 1
1934-1949	Gaspard R. Emard — Ward 2
1950-1957	Richard B. Viau — Ward 2
1958-1969	Wilfred J. Bonin — Ward 2
1960-1963	Ralph J. Chouinard — At Large
1964-1969	James M. Vachon — Ward 3
1968-1969	Leonard F. Provost — Ward 1
1970-	Norman R. Gladu — Ward 2
1972-	Ulric L. Quenneville — Ward 1

Al. F. Cousineau (not E)

## APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR

### CITY SOLICITOR

1964-1968 Ralph J. Chouinard

### ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR

1964-1968 Harold F. Brunault

## BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

1897-1909	Gilbert Potvin, Jr.	1933-1935	Ernest J. Nobert
1910-1912	Adelard M. Potvin	1936	Rudolph J. Laporte
1913-1917	Israel Ducharme	1937-1939	J. Hermas Fleury
1918-1919	Albert L. Lamarsh	1940-1941	Narcisse Bouchard
1920	William M. Hart	1942-1957	Edgar Bouchard
1921-1925	Fred A. Monat	1958-1959	Jean B. Goddu
1926-1927	Frank Rainault	1960-1963	Dr. Leo R. Neddo
1928-1929	Albert H. Hebert	1964-1965	Amedee N. DeRoy
1930-1931	Edward A. Pauze	1967-	William H. Potvin
1932	Antonio D. Goddu		

## FIRE COMMISSIONERS

1891-1897	Val Moquin	1926	Adelard A. Fortin
1897-1900	Mederic J. Laporte	1927-1929	Frank U. Gobeil
1900-1903	Daniel Proulx	1930-1932	Oscar O. Lamontagne
1903-1912	George J. Prew	1951-1957	Oliver Lamoureux
1912-1918	Dr. George C. Robert	1957-1963	J. Hermas Fleury
1918-1919	Henry O. Beauchamp	1963-	Robert H. Bourassa
1924-1927	Ernest J. Nobert		

## BOARD OF HEALTH

1917-1918	Henry E. Chaput, M.D.	1936-1939	Arthur Herbert, R.Ph.
1919	J. Hermas Fleury	1940-1953	Dr. Leo R. Neddo
1920-1926	Dolor I. Beaupre, M.D.	1943-1945	Dolor I. Beaupre, M.D.
1926-1929	Joseph E. Brindamour, M.D.	1954-	Oscar A. Bourgeault, M.D.
1930-1933	William G. Gangers	1972-	Normand A. LaRoche, R.Ph.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS			
1885-1891	Joseph Beauchemin	1921-1933	J. Hermas Fleury
1891-1894	Charles H. Roy	1933-1936	Roland E. Cloutier
1894-1897	Ophir E. Genest	1939-1942	Conrad Hemond
1897-1912	Charles U. Roy	1942-1952	Joseph A. Coderre
1912-1915	Alexander J. Therrien	1961-1970	Gaspard R. Emard
1915-1918	Joseph A. Paradis	1970-	Henry L. Normand
1918-1921	Louis E. Emery		

BOARD OF APPEALS			
1956	Leo A. Ouellette	1959-1972	Rene A. Barsalou
1957-1958	Dr. Armand Trudeau		

CHIEF OF POLICE	
1953-1954	William H. Potvin

LICENSING BOARD			
1935-1968	Lionel Boucher	1968-1970	Eugene C. Brunelle

HOLYOKE HOUSING AUTHORITY			
1947-1957	Romeo D. Raymond	1966-1971	William H. Potvin
1957-1967	Henry L. Normand	1968-	Fernand R. Ducharme

#### APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ASSESSORS			
1887-1893	Didace St. Marie	1938-1951	Henry M. LaFontaine
1893-1908	Joseph St. Martin	1972-	Victor E. Provost, Jr.
1908-1929	William G. Beaudro		

BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE			
1937-1944	Gerald R. Meunier	1951-1963	Ernest W. Brunault
1945-1950	Roland F. Peltier	1964-1968	Richard J. Gagne

CITY PHYSICIAN	
1929-1931 Louis J. Rudiger, M.D.	1951-1962 Edgar J. Fleury, M.D.

*Politically Researched and Edited by William H. Potvin*



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